

Neutrino Masses and Leptogenesis

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Abstract

I discuss the connection between neutrino masses and leptogenesis. I use three prime examples: (1) canonical seesaw, (2) triplet Higgs, and (3) R parity violation.

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1 Origin of Neutrino Mass

Recent neutrino experiments [1, 2, 3], which are most naturally explained by neutrino oscillations, are strong indications that neutrinos are massive and mix with one another. So where do neutrino masses come from? In the minimal Standard Model, neutrinos appear only as left-handed fields in three electroweak doublets $(\nu_i, l_i)_L$, where $i = 1, 2, 3$ is the family index. Charged leptons l_i have right-handed components which are singlets, but not neutrinos. Hence neutrinos are massless two-component fermions, as long as there is no physics beyond the minimal Standard Model. Otherwise, there may be an effective dimension-5 operator [4]

$$\frac{1}{\Lambda}(\nu_i\phi^0 - l_i\phi^+)(\nu_j\phi^0 - l_j\phi^+), \quad (1)$$

where (ϕ^+, ϕ^0) is the standard Higgs doublet and Λ is a large mass, which yields a nonvanishing Majorana neutrino mass matrix as ϕ^0 acquires a nonzero vacuum expectation value in the spontaneous breaking of the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ electroweak gauge symmetry.

All models of neutrino mass with the same low-energy particle content as that of the minimal Standard Model differ only in the way the above effective operator is realized [5]. The most well-known such model by far is the canonical seesaw model [6], where three right-handed neutrino singlets with large Majorana masses are added. This amounts to inserting a heavy internal fermion line between the two singlet factors of Eq. (1). The corresponding diagram can be read off to obtain the neutrino mass matrix as

$$(\mathcal{M}_\nu)_{ij} = \frac{f_i f_j \langle \phi^0 \rangle^2}{m_N}, \quad (2)$$

where f_i are the Yukawa couplings linking ν_i with the heavy singlet N with mass m_N . Obviously, we need three N 's to obtain three naturally small seesaw masses for ν_e , ν_μ , and ν_τ . On the other hand, other mechanisms are available [5], the simplest alternative being

the addition of a heavy scalar triplet [7]. This is easily recognized if we rewrite Eq. (1) as

$$\frac{1}{\Lambda}[\nu_i \nu_j \phi^0 \phi^0 - (\nu_i l_j + l_i \nu_j) \phi^0 \phi^+ + l_i l_j \phi^+ \phi^+], \quad (3)$$

hence an insertion of the heavy scalar triplet

$$\xi = (\xi^{++}, \xi^+, \xi^0) \quad (4)$$

into the above yields a neutrino mass matrix given by

$$(\mathcal{M}_\nu)_{ij} = \frac{2f_{ij}\mu\langle\phi^0\rangle^2}{m_\xi^2}, \quad (5)$$

where f_{ij} are the Yukawa couplings of ξ to the lepton doublets and μ is its coupling (with the dimension of mass) to the scalar doublets. Note that Eq. (5) can also be interpreted as due to $\langle\xi^0\rangle$, i.e. [7]

$$\langle\xi^0\rangle = \frac{\mu\langle\phi^0\rangle^2}{m_\xi^2} \ll m_\xi. \quad (6)$$

This shows explicitly that the vacuum expectation value of a heavy scalar field may in fact be very small.

2 Leptogenesis

Given that lepton number is not conserved in models of Majorana neutrino masses, the attractive possibility exists that a primordial lepton asymmetry may be created in the early Universe, which then gets converted into the present observed baryon asymmetry through the $B + L$ violating, but $B - L$ conserving interactions of the electroweak sphalerons [8]. In the canonical seesaw model, this is accomplished [9] by the decays of N_i . Being Majorana fermions, $N_{1,2}$ may decay into either $l^-\phi^+$ with $L = 1$ or $l^+\phi^-$ with $L = -1$. Consider now the amplitude for $N_1 \rightarrow l^+\phi^-$. It is the sum of 3 terms: the obvious tree graph, the one-loop vertex correction with

$$N_1 \rightarrow l^-\phi^+ \rightarrow \phi^- l^+ \quad (7)$$

through the exchange of N_2 , and the one-loop self-energy correction with

$$N_1 \rightarrow l^- \phi^+ \rightarrow N_2 \rightarrow l^+ \phi^-. \quad (8)$$

Let this amplitude be denoted by $A + iB$, where B is the absorptive part, i.e. from putting the intermediate state $l^- \phi^+$ on the mass shell. Then the lepton asymmetry from the decay of N_1 is proportional to

$$|A + iB|^2 - |A^* + iB^*|^2 = 4\text{Im}(A^*B). \quad (9)$$

This means that CP violation is essential and that the presence of a different N , i.e. N_2 , in the loop is necessary for leptogenesis.

Since 1995, there has been a resurgence of activity [10] in this topic. Consider $N_{1,2}$ and the mass matrix linking $(\bar{N}_{1L}, \bar{N}_{2L}, \bar{N}_{1R}, \bar{N}_{2R})$ with $(N_{1L}, N_{2L}, N_{1R}, N_{2R})$:

$$\mathcal{M}_N = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \mathcal{M} \\ \tilde{\mathcal{M}} & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (10)$$

where

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} M_1 + H_{11} & H_{12} \\ H_{12} & M_2 + H_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{\mathcal{M}} = \begin{bmatrix} M_1 + H_{11} & \tilde{H}_{12} \\ \tilde{H}_{12} & M_2 + H_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (11)$$

and

$$H_{12} = [M_1 \sum_{\alpha} h_{\alpha 1}^* h_{\alpha 2} + M_2 \sum_{\alpha} h_{\alpha 1} h_{\alpha 2}^*] \left[g_{\alpha 12}^{disp} - \frac{i}{32\pi} \right], \quad (12)$$

$$\tilde{H}_{12} = [M_1 \sum_{\alpha} h_{\alpha 1} h_{\alpha 2}^* + M_2 \sum_{\alpha} h_{\alpha 1}^* h_{\alpha 2}] \left[g_{\alpha 12}^{disp} - \frac{i}{32\pi} \right], \quad (13)$$

$$H_{jj} = 2M_j \sum_{\alpha} |h_{\alpha j}|^2 \left[g_{\alpha jj}^{disp} - \frac{i}{32\pi} \right]. \quad (14)$$

Note that $\tilde{H}_{12} \neq H_{12}^*$ because of the absorptive contribution, hence \mathcal{M}_N is not hermitian. This is analogous to $\bar{K} - K$ or $\bar{B} - B$ mixing when the decay of the particles is also taken into account. The self-energy correction to \mathcal{M}_N implies that mass eigenstates need not be

CP eigenstates, i.e. indirect CP violation as exemplified by the ϵ parameter. The vertex correction to \mathcal{M}_N implies that CP may be violated in the decay itself, i.e. direct CP violation as exemplified by the ϵ' parameter. $N_1 - N_2$ oscillations may also occur. However, all these things happen in an expanding Universe, i.e in a dense, hot medium which is changing with time, hence the exact details are complicated and are still being worked out [10].

The primordial lepton asymmetry is generated from the decay of the lightest N , i.e. N_1 :

$$\delta \simeq \frac{G_F}{2\pi\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{(m_D^\dagger m_D)_{11}} \sum_{j=2,3} \text{Im}(m_D^\dagger m_D)_{1j}^2 \frac{M_1}{M_j}, \quad (15)$$

where m_D is the Dirac mass matrix linking ν with N , and $M_1 \ll M_j$ has been assumed. This expression [11] can then be used to study neutrino masses and mixing from atmospheric [1] and solar [2] neutrino oscillations and to extract information [13] on N_1 . The range $10^9 - 10^{13}$ GeV for M_1 is found to be consistent with $n_B/g_*n_\gamma \sim 10^{-10}$. Since the self-energy contribution is proportional to $M_1/(M_2 - M_1)$, δ may be enhanced if $M_2 - M_1 \ll M_1$, but the limit $M_2 - M_1 \rightarrow 0$ is not singular [12], as it is bounded by the decay width of N_1 .

3 Triplet Higgs Model

If neutrino masses come from heavy triplet scalars [7], then the mixing of ξ_1 and ξ_2 through their absorptive parts, i.e. self-energy contributions, leads to the physical mass eigenstates ψ_1 and ψ_2 which are not CP eigenstates. Their decay asymmetries are given by

$$\delta_i \simeq \frac{\text{Im}[\mu_1 \mu_2^* \sum_{k,l} f_{1kl} f_{2kl}^*]}{8\pi^2(M_1^2 - M_2^2)} \frac{M_i}{\Gamma_i}, \quad (16)$$

and for $M_{1,2} \sim 10^{13}$ GeV, realistic neutrino masses and leptogenesis are possible.

4 Neutrino Masses from R Parity Violation

I now come to my third example which is the generation of neutrino masses through R parity violation in supersymmetry [14]. The well-known superfield content of the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) is given by

$$Q_i = (u_i, d_i)_L \sim (3, 2, 1/6), \quad (17)$$

$$u_i^c \sim (3^*, 1, -2/3), \quad (18)$$

$$d_i^c \sim (3^*, 1, 1/3), \quad (19)$$

$$L_i = (\nu_i, l_i)_L \sim (1, 2, -1/2), \quad (20)$$

$$l_i^c \sim (1, 1, 1); \quad (21)$$

$$H_1 = (\bar{\phi}_1^0, -\phi_1^-) \sim (1, 2, -1/2), \quad (22)$$

$$H_2 = (\phi_2^+, \phi_2^0) \sim (1, 2, 1/2). \quad (23)$$

Given the above transformations under the standard $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ gauge group, the corresponding superpotential should contain in general all gauge-invariant bilinear and trilinear combinations of the superfields. However, to forbid the nonconservation of both baryon number (B) and lepton number (L), each particle is usually assigned a discrete R parity:

$$R \equiv (-1)^{3B+L+2j}, \quad (24)$$

which is assumed to be conserved by the allowed interactions. Hence the MSSM superpotential has only the terms $H_1 H_2$, $H_1 L_i l_j^c$, $H_1 Q_i d_j^c$, and $H_2 Q_i u_j^c$. Since the superfield $\nu_i^c \sim (1, 1, 0)$ is absent, $m_\nu = 0$ in the MSSM as in the minimal Standard Model. Neutrino oscillations [1, 2, 3] are thus unexplained.

Phenomenologically, it makes sense to require only B conservation (to make sure that the proton is stable), but to allow L violation (hence R parity violation) so that the additional

terms $L_i H_2$, $L_i L_j l_k^c$, and $L_i Q_j d_k^c$ may occur. Note that they all have $\Delta L = 1$. Neutrino masses are now possible [15] with Eq. (1) realized in two ways. From the bilinear terms

$$-\mu H_1 H_2 + \epsilon_i L_i H_2, \quad (25)$$

a 7×7 neutralino-neutrino mass matrix is obtained:

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & 0 & -g_1 v_1 & -g_1 v_2 & -g_1 u_i \\ 0 & M_2 & g_2 v_1 & -g_2 v_2 & g_2 u_i \\ -g_1 v_1 & g_2 v_1 & 0 & -\mu & 0 \\ g_1 v_2 & -g_2 v_2 & -\mu & 0 & \epsilon_i \\ -g_1 u_i & g_2 u_i & 0 & \epsilon_i & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (26)$$

where $v_{1,2} = \langle \phi_{1,2}^0 \rangle / 2$ and $u_i = \langle \tilde{\nu}_i \rangle / 2$, with $i = e, \mu, \tau$. Note first the important fact that a nonzero ϵ_i implies a nonzero u_i . Note also that even if u_i / ϵ_i is not the same for all i , only one linear combination of the three neutrinos gets a tree-level mass [16]. From the trilinear terms, neutrino masses are also obtained, but now as one-loop radiative corrections. Note that these occur as the result of supersymmetry breaking and are suppressed by m_d^2 or m_l^2 .

5 L Violation and the Universe

As noted earlier, the R parity violating interactions have $\Delta L = 1$. Furthermore, the particles involved have masses at most equal to the supersymmetry breaking scale, i.e. a few TeV. This means that their L violation together with the $B + L$ violation by sphalerons [8] would erase any primordial B or L asymmetry of the Universe [17]. To avoid such a possibility, one may reduce the relevant Yukawa couplings to less than about 10^{-7} , but a typical minimum value of 10^{-4} is required for realistic neutrino masses. Hence the existence of the present baryon asymmetry of the Universe is unexplained if neutrino masses originate from these $\Delta L = 1$ interactions. This is a generic problem of all models of radiative neutrino masses where the L violation can be traced to interactions occurring at energies below 10^{13} GeV or so.

6 Leptogenesis from R Parity Violation

Once the notion of R parity violation is introduced, there are many new terms to be added in the Lagrangian. Some may be responsible for realistic neutrino masses and may even participate in the erasure of any primordial B or L asymmetry of the Universe, but others may be able to produce a lepton asymmetry on their own which then gets converted into the present observed baryon asymmetry of the Universe through the sphalerons. A recent proposal [18] shows how this may happen in a specific model.

Consider the usual 4×4 neutralino mass matrix in the $(\tilde{B}, \tilde{W}_3, \tilde{h}_1^0, \tilde{h}_2^0)$ basis:

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & 0 & -sm_3 & sm_4 \\ 0 & M_2 & cm_3 & -cm_4 \\ -sm_3 & cm_3 & 0 & -\mu \\ sm_4 & -cm_4 & -\mu & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (27)$$

where $s = \sin \theta_W$, $c = \cos \theta_W$, $m_3 = M_Z \cos \beta$, $m_4 = M_Z \sin \beta$, and $\tan \beta = v_2/v_1$. The above assumes that ϵ_i and u_i are negligible in Eq. (26), which is a good approximation because neutrino masses are so small. We now choose the special case of

$$m_3, m_4 \ll M_2 < M_1 < \mu. \quad (28)$$

As a result, the two higgsinos $\tilde{h}_{1,2}^0$ form a heavy Dirac particle of mass μ and the other two less heavy Majorana fermion mass eigenstates are

$$\tilde{B}' \simeq \tilde{B} + \frac{sc\delta r_1}{M_1 - M_2} \tilde{W}_3 + \dots, \quad (29)$$

$$\tilde{W}_3' \simeq \tilde{W}_3 - \frac{sc\delta r_2}{M_1 - M_2} \tilde{B} + \dots, \quad (30)$$

where $\delta = M_Z^2 \sin 2\beta / \mu$, and

$$r_{1,2} = \frac{1 + M_{1,2}/\mu \sin 2\beta}{1 - M_{1,2}^2/\mu^2}. \quad (31)$$

We now observe that whereas \tilde{B} couples to both $\bar{l}_L \tilde{l}_L$ and $\bar{l}_L^c \tilde{l}_L^c$, \tilde{W}_3 couples only to $\bar{l}_L \tilde{l}_L$ because l_L^c is trivial under $SU(2)_L$. On the other hand, R parity violation implies that there

is $\tilde{l}_L - h^-$ mixing as well as $\tilde{l}_L^c - h^+$ mixing. Therefore, both \tilde{B}' and \tilde{W}'_3 decay into $l^\pm h^\mp$ and may be the seeds of a lepton asymmetry in such a scenario.

Let the $\tilde{l}_L - h^-$ mixing be very small (which is a consistent assumption for realistic neutrino masses from bilinear R parity violation). Then \tilde{W}'_3 decays only through its \tilde{B} component. Hence the decay rate of the LSP (Lightest Supersymmetric Particle), i.e. \tilde{W}'_3 , is very much suppressed, first by δ and then by the $\tilde{l}_L^c - h^+$ mixing which will be denoted by ξ . Our construction is aimed at satisfying the out-of-equilibrium condition:

$$\Gamma(\tilde{W}'_3 \rightarrow l^\pm h^\mp) < H = 1.7\sqrt{g_*}(T^2/M_{Pl}) \quad (32)$$

at the temperature $T \sim M_2$, where H is the Hubble expansion rate of the Universe with g_* the effective number of massless degrees of freedom and M_{Pl} the Planck mass. This implies

$$\left(\frac{\xi|\delta|r_2}{M_1 - M_2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{M_2} < 1.9 \times 10^{-14} \text{GeV}^{-1}, \quad (33)$$

where we have used $g_* = 10^2$ and $M_{Pl} = 10^{18} \text{ GeV}$.

The lepton asymmetry generated from the decay of \tilde{W}'_3 has both vertex and self-energy loop contributions from the insertion of \tilde{B}' . However, the coupling of \tilde{B}' to $l^\pm h^\mp$ is suppressed only by ξ and not by δ , thus a realistic asymmetry may be established if ξ is not too small. Let $x \equiv M_2^2/M_1^2$, then the decay asymmetry of \tilde{W}'_3 is given by

$$\epsilon = \frac{\alpha\xi^2}{2\cos^2\theta_W} \frac{Im\delta^2}{|\delta|^2} \frac{\sqrt{x}g(x)}{1-x}, \quad (34)$$

where

$$g(x) = 1 + \frac{2(1-x)}{x} \left[\left(\frac{1+x}{x} \right) \ln(1+x) - 1 \right]. \quad (35)$$

The phase of δ comes from the relative phase between M_1 and M_2 .

To make sure that at $T \sim M_2$, the L violating processes $l^\pm h^\mp \leftrightarrow l^\mp h^\pm$ through \tilde{B}' exchange do not erase ϵ , we require

$$\left(\frac{2e^2\xi^2}{\cos^2\theta_W}\right)^2 \frac{1}{M_1^2} \frac{T^3}{32\pi} \frac{f(x)}{(1-x)^2} < H \quad (36)$$

at $T \sim M_2$, where

$$f(x) = 1 + \frac{2(1-x)}{x^2} [(1+3x) \ln(1+x) - x(1+x)], \quad (37)$$

which implies

$$\frac{\xi^4}{M_2} \frac{xf(x)}{(1-x)^2} < 2.6 \times 10^{-14} \text{GeV}^{-1}. \quad (38)$$

A sample solution is

$$\begin{aligned} M_1 &= 3 \text{ TeV}, \quad \frac{\delta}{M_1 - M_2} = 8.3 \times 10^{-4}, \\ M_2 &= 2 \text{ TeV}, \quad \xi = 2 \times 10^{-3}. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

In that case,

$$\epsilon = 3.6 \times 10^{-8} \text{ Im} \delta^2 / |\delta|^2, \quad (40)$$

and

$$\frac{n_B}{g_* n_\gamma} \sim \frac{\epsilon}{3g_*} \sim 10^{-10} \frac{\text{Im} \delta^2}{|\delta|^2}. \quad (41)$$

Hence realistic leptogenesis is possible if $\xi \sim 10^{-3}$ can be obtained.

The origin of $\tilde{l}_L^c - h^+$ mixing in R parity violation is usually the term $H_1 \tilde{L} \tilde{l}^c$, which is very small because $\langle \tilde{\nu} \rangle$ has to be very small. To obtain $\xi \sim 10^{-3}$, we need to add the nonholomorphic [19] term $H_2^\dagger H_1 \tilde{l}^c$ which is generally unconstrained.

7 Conclusion

Given a mechanism for generating small Majorana neutrino masses, it is often a *bonus* to find that leptogenesis is possible at the same time. In the canonical seesaw and triplet Higgs models, the same new physics is responsible for both. In R parity nonconserving supersymmetry, they may come from different sectors of the theory.

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